

HEALTH STRATEGIES

HEALTHCARE MISSIONS

Caring for people's needs is integral to the missionary tasks of evangelism, discipling new believers, training leaders, and forming healthy churches. Healthcare missions gives access to the unreached, allows for intimate conversations, meets needs, makes disciples and empowers the church. Pray for healthcare workers on mission!

GOD ANSWERED A HEALTHCARE WORKER'S PRAYER FOR A MOTHER AND HER PEOPLE

God is working through prayer among the Cham, a minority Muslim people group in Cambodia. For five years believing professional healthcare workers have prayed for the Cham. They taught weekly health lessons and Bible stories in Cham villages. But when they shared about "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), the Cham resisted. The believers remained faithful to engage this people and deepened relationships with them. God answered their prayers when a Cham family opened their home for one of the believing women to teach health lessons. This family has a baby girl with an incurable genetic skin condition that causes painful blistering. The healthcare worker prayed for the baby and tried to relieve her pain. Some remedies helped, but recently, the baby got worse. She kept praying in Jesus's name. What the mother wanted most, but thought impossible, was the needed daily medicine for her baby. The medicine was often not available in Cambodia and



A healthcare worker teaches women. IMB Photo.

was very expensive. The worker looked in a different pharmacy, and she found the medicine under a different name. It was affordable enough for the baby to use every day. God used that provision to move the mother's heart toward Jesus. Later, when the believing healthcare worker explained salvation again to this mother, she cried tears of joy and prayed for Jesus to forgive her sins. God heard the prayers for this mother and her baby. The Cham woman decided to follow Jesus, and the baby also got relief from her pain. The believer continues to pray for many other Cham people to follow.

Will you pray with her?

"And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction."

Matthew 9:35 ESV

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

In December 2021, you prayed that the team at Kigoma Baptist Hospital in Tanzania would receive permits that they needed but were difficult to get. God answered your prayers! Everyone on the team got their permits to continue serving at the hospital. **Thank you for praying.**

1 ASIA-PACIFIC RIM. A believing nurse partners in a pregnancy clinic with local midwives who have a passion to share Jesus. Many women at the clinic have become Christ-followers and joined a discipleship program. Pray for God's provision as this ministry grows.

2 SOUTH ASIA. Nursing students are being trained to share the gospel cross-culturally while supporting themselves as nurses. As you pray for more laborers, pray that these young people will be sensitive to God's call and prepare well for His service.

3 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. Pray for the health of children who are in a malnutrition program in a rural village. Pray that the families will believe the gospel and be discipled.

4 GLOBAL. Telemedicine has opened many opportunities in healthcare missions. Trained partners can use this technology to access unreached people who need medical care and the gospel. Pray for new projects that are underway and for more opportunities to reach people.

5 EUROPE. TruFit is a faith-based ministry connecting non-believers to a local church. Coaches offer guidance in many aspects of fitness – physical, emotional, financial, occupational, social, and mental. Pray for many to experience life transformation through faith in Jesus.

6 NORTH AFRICA. A home-based care project for those recently launched. Pray for open doors and favor with local government and community. Pray for open hearts and gospel conversations in these homes.

7 CENTRAL ASIA. A medical-dental clinic in a major city has been closed for some time. Pray that healthcare workers can soon reopen this clinic. Pray for a smooth recertification process for the local dentist. Pray that the worker can renew their licenses.

8 ASIA-PACIFIC RIM. A believing physical therapist has many opportunities to use her skills in a medical center and in villages. Pray that she will be able to train local believers in physical therapy, which is so needed in her country. Pray for believers to want to serve in Jesus' name.

9 AMERICAS. Pray for two Cuban physicians working with Indigenous unreached people in remote areas of Colombia's mountains. People's physical and spiritual needs are great. Pray that God will use this healthcare ministry to soften people's hearts and open doors for gospel sharing.

10 EUROPE. People who have experienced trauma come to a healing center in Europe for holistic care through support groups, physical activities, and art therapy. Pray that many will accept the gospel and find true emotional, physical, and spiritual healing.

11 MIDDLE EAST. Pray for the development of an urban clinic that provides care for patients and training for young physicians. Pray for the believing workers and the staff to form relationships and share the gospel in the community. Pray for all who participate in the training program.

12 SOUTH ASIA. Local churches saw people in their community suffering with alcohol addiction and wanted to help. They

developed a Bible story-based curriculum and started recovery groups. Pray that those who are addicted will find support for sobriety and decide to follow Jesus.

13 AMERICAS. Pray for a believing nurse in rural Ecuador as she advises people about treatment, goes with them to the hospital, and educates them about health. Pray that she will have many opportunities to talk about Jesus and bringing the light and hope of the gospel.

14 CENTRAL ASIA. Pray for believers as they develop and implement a project that will offer maternal health to women and families in a valley community. Pray that the project will benefit all who participate. Ask God to prepare them to hear and receive the gospel.

15 ASIA-PACIFIC RIM. Pray for believing healthcare workers who help people caring for family members with memory problems. Ask God to open doors for this and other vital elder care ministries throughout Asia and the world.

16 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. Pray for a group of nursing students who meet weekly to study the Bible. Ask God to call out some of them to work with a local marginalized people group. Pray that they will follow Him and serve with compassion, reflecting the love of Jesus.

17 MIDDLE EAST. Many refugees and displaced people have suffered trauma and loss due to continuing war. Pray for believers who lead support groups. Pray for hurting people to get the help they need. May each person in the groups heal and accept Jesus, who brings ultimate peace.

18 EUROPE. Malta is a tiny island nation in the Mediterranean Sea. Many Maltese have heard the story of Jesus, but very few have a personal walk with Him. Pray for an effort to connect with Maltese through an epilepsy support group, and through Christian counseling.

19 AMERICAS. As migrating people pass through Mexico and pause in camps on the country's borders, their health needs are often ignored. Pray that IMB healthcare workers will find ways to care for these people by partnering with local medical professionals and volunteer teams.

20 GLOBAL. Many Baptist hospitals across the world are now under national ownership. IMB healthcare workers still serve in them and partner with some of them. Pray for efforts to connect these hospitals in a fellowship to share a vision and encouragement.

21 CENTRAL ASIA. A believer works as a doula and childbirth educator among Central Asian immigrant women in Europe. Pray that she will be able to work in hospitals to have more access to these people. Pray that her relationships will lead to many learning the truth of the gospel.

22 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. With support from Send Relief, the Baptist Convention of Angola opened a medical-dental clinic in a highly populated area of the capital. Pray for IMB healthcare workers, local health professionals, and local churches as they meet needs and share Christ's love.

23 NORTH AFRICA. A believing physician has been visiting patients in their homes. She has gained a lot of favor in the



community. Recently, the local government changed. Pray that she will continue to be welcome and be allowed to give care.

24 SOUTH ASIA. Pray for doctors who are Christ-followers in a South Asian hospital as they care for patients and form relationships with their peers. Pray that they will speak boldly about their faith. Pray for other likeminded doctors to join the hospital's medical staff.

25 EUROPE. Pray for mobile medical clinics among internally displaced people in Ukraine. Pray for pastors and deacons who themselves are displaced but want to meet their congregation's needs and grow the church in Ukraine. Pray for necessary permissions and safety for this ministry.

26 AMERICAS. IMB healthcare workers see malnutrition in rural areas throughout the Americas, especially in school-aged children. Pray for these workers to have opportunities to offer community health education, impact children's nutrition, and share the gospel as they work.

27 CENTRAL ASIA. Healthcare workers in a Central Asian city teach medical English to healthcare students and professionals. They form relationships through social

activities as well, and they regularly share the gospel. Pray for their past, current, and future students.

28 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. Pray for Kigoma Baptist Hospital in Tanzania, where many people receive physical and spiritual care. Pray for the board and administration to fully support fully the hospital's mission. Pray for IMB healthcare workers and national staff to have wisdom in planning.

29 EUROPE. IMB healthcare workers in London present to churches and to groups of unbelievers how Jesus views people struggling with mental health. Pray that believers will be trained to care for people with mental health needs and help them find peace in Jesus.

30 ASIA-PACIFIC RIM. Pray for students at a Baptist nursing college. They learn and practice praying with patients and sharing the gospel with them as they assess physical needs and provide care. Pray that the nurses will be bold witnesses for Christ.

31 GLOBAL. Health strategies are key in facing mental health issues and urban poverty. As they serve, IMB healthcare workers also address the world's greatest problem – lostness. Pray for more healthcare workers to respond to God's call and access more people in need.



A WOMAN WORRIED ABOUT ETERNITY UNTIL A DOCTOR SHARED THE GOSPEL WITH HER

A woman in Asia asked a believing doctor for help because she felt depressed. With good friends and a warm family, she thought she had no reason to feel that way. She worried about where she would spend eternity and wondered about the purpose of life. She tried to do good deeds and help the poor, but nothing gave her peace about those recurring questions. The doctor shared the gospel with her, and she listened with rapt attention. By the time the doctor invited her to respond to the gospel and follow Christ, she was ready. She confessed her sins to Jesus and asked to belong to Him. **God answered her questions and brought joy to her life.**

THE GOSPEL BROUGHT NEW LIFE IN A DESERT

Healthcare workers shared the gospel as they brought water and health education to villages on the edge of the desert, where people struggle to survive in poverty. A small group of women responded to the gospel and decided to follow Jesus. They are now being discipled and have caught the vision to reach others. For hours, they sit on top of goods in the back of trucks headed for markets in other villages. Once they arrive, they share Bible stories about Jesus with the village women. One of the women who listened as they shared said, "Why has no one ever told us these stories?" Pray that believers will continue to boldly share the gospel with people in desert villages. **Pray that those who hear the stories will believe that Jesus is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).**



MEDADVANCE 2023

Brentwood Baptist Church,
Brentwood, TN

You can network with other health professionals and students, meet with healthcare missionaries and learn how to pair your healthcare training with your love for international missions.



MEDADVANCE 2024

First Baptist Church,
Houston, TX

imb.org/healthcare



imb.org/healthcare



Some names may have been changed for security reasons. IMB 1M 12/22 P7623